



HANFORD UPDATE

A bulletin on Hanford cleanup and compliance

Volume 7, Number 5 - July/Aug 1995

Hanford plutonium stabilization project completed ahead of schedule

An innovative approach to stabilize plutonium scrap material at the Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP) was successfully completed on June 13, three months ahead of schedule. Beginning in January 1995, small batches of chemically-reactive plutonium sludge were heated to 1,000 degrees centigrade inside two small furnaces. The furnaces in an enclosed glovebox work area converted the moist sludge into an impure stable plutonium oxide powder that can be sealed in containers for long-term storage in PFP's shielded vaults.

The sludge stabilization project responded to stakeholder concerns about using large-scale defense production technology to purify and stabilize the scrap material. Instead practical small-scale techniques were used. They proved to be cheaper, safer and more efficient.

For more information contact Jim Mecca, USDOE, (509) 376-7471.

100 Area public meeting on proposed cleanup plans

The Tri-Party Agencies will issue records of decision this fall on the proposed cleanup plans for three operable units (100-BC-1, 100-DR-1, and 100-HR-1) situated along the Columbia River in Hanford's 100 Area. These proposed cleanup actions will focus on 27 high-priority radioactive liquid waste disposal sites.

Also, additional sites comparable to the 27 high priority sites are being considered for inclusion in the records of decision. A public meeting was July 25. The public comment period on the proposed plans closes August 9. A response to comment document will be prepared before issuance of the records of decision.

For more information contact Kevin Oates, EPA, (509) 376-6623.

200 Area ground water cleanup comment opens soon

A 30-day public comment period begins August 8 on the proposed plan to clean up the ground water beneath the southern portion of Hanford's 200 West Area. The 200 UP-1 unit contains ground water contaminated with uranium, technetium-99, nitrate and carbon tetrachloride. The plan's preferred alternative is to pump and treat ground water. The comment period will end September 6, 1995. While no public meeting has been scheduled, a public meeting may be requested.

For more information contact Dib Goswami, Ecology, (509) 736-3015.

Clean closure documents signed for three Hanford facilities

Ecology in late June signed letters certifying three Hanford waste management units have been fully cleaned up under provisions of state and federal hazardous waste laws. They are the 300 Area Solvent Evaporator, the 2727-S Nonradioactive Dangerous Waste Storage Facility, and the 216 B-3 Expansion Ponds. The land at these units can now be used for other purposes. These "clean closures" are the first more than 60 Hanford waste treatment, storage or disposal units.

For more information contact Moses Jaraysi, Ecology, (509) 736-3016.

PUREX nitric acid being shipped to England

The first shipment of surplus nitric acid, previously used in the chemical separation process at the now shutdown Plutonium/Uranium Extraction (PUREX) plant, has been successfully shipped, received and used by British Nuclear Fuels Limited at Sellafield, England.

The first shipping container was filled and departed Hanford site by truck on May 22. The shipment traveled cross-country to Portsmouth, Virginia and was loaded aboard a ship for the trans-Atlantic voyage to Felixstowe, England. The shipment arrived on June 10. The remainder of the journey was by rail and arrived at Sellafield on June 13.

The sale of the surplus acid represents a \$37 million savings in processing and storage costs to the USDOE. If the sale had not taken place, the acid would have been treated and stored as waste.

For more information contact Larry Romine, USDOE, 376-4747.

Comments sought on 200 Area soil discharge

Ecology seeks public comment on the USDOE's applications for waste water discharges to the soil at five Hanford locations. The five are: 200 East Area W252-Streams; 200 East Area Chemical Drain Field; 400 Area Septic System; 183-M Backwash Discharge Pond; and 100-N Sewage Lagoon. Ecology plans to use the comments to prepare draft permits for public review next fall. The applications are available for review and copying at the Hanford information repositories.

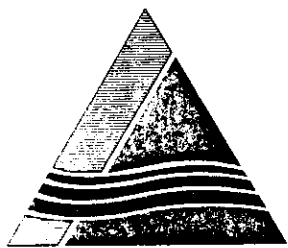
For more information contact Greta Davis, Ecology, (509) 736-3025.

Public involvement activities now on the Internet

The "Hanford Update" newsletter and the Hanford Site Calendar listing public involvement activities are both available on Internet.

The address for the Hanford World Wide Web Home Page is: <http://www.hanford.gov>

For more information contact Lois Thiede, Westinghouse Hanford Company, (509) 376-1065.



200-UP-1 Groundwater Cleanup

Tri-Party Agreement

*The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) invite you to comment on the Interim Remedial Measures Proposed Plan for the 200-UP-1 Operable Unit at the Hanford Site. The unit contains groundwater contaminated with uranium, technetium-99, nitrate and carbon tetrachloride. The proposed plan chooses a preferred alternative. A public comment period on the plan begins **August 8** and ends **September 6, 1995**. Please send written comments to:*

Mr. Dib Goswami
Washington State Department of Ecology
Nuclear Waste Program
1315 W. 4th Avenue
Kennewick, WA 99336
(509) 736-3015

Background:

200-UP-1 is one of two groundwater operable units located in the 200 West Area on the Hanford Site's central plateau. The 200-UP-1 plan addresses groundwater contaminants in the southern portion of the 200-West Area, which lies about 25 miles northwest of Richland.

The main objective of this Interim Remedial Measure (IRM) is to reduce the risks from contaminated groundwater. Interim Remedial Measures begin before the start of final remedial actions and address one or more contamination problems at a site, but not necessarily all of a site's contamination problems.

The groundwater contains elevated levels of uranium and technetium-99. These contaminants resulted from historical discharges from processes at the U Plant. These elements have a high potential risk because of their cancer-causing characteristics.

U-Plant process wastewater, consisting primarily of dilute nitric acid containing uranium and technetium-99, was disposed of to the ground through cribs between 1951 and 1968. These contaminants reached the groundwater. Also, carbon tetrachloride has spread southward from the 200-ZP-1 unit and is present in 200-UP-1 unit at a concentration higher than the drinking water standard.

Cleanup work will focus on the groundwater plume where the uranium and technetium concentration is more than 10 times drinking water standards. The cleanup work also will remove carbon tetrachloride.

Information gathered to date regarding the groundwater in the 200 West Area is documented in the 200-West Aggregate Area Management Study (AAMS) Report (DOE/RL 92-16), 200-UP-1 Treatability Test Report (DOE/RL-93-105), Engineering Evaluation/Conceptual Plan for the 200-UP-1 Groundwater Operable Unit Interim Remedial Measure (BHI-00187, Rev. 00) and 200-UP-1 Vertical Profiling Activity Summary Report (BHI-00149, Rev.00). These reports contain historical sampling data, summarize site conditions, and identify available response options. The proposed plan was written using information from the reports. Information gained during the Interim Remedial Measure will be used to support final remedy selection for the 200-UP-1 unit.

Alternatives Evaluated

Two alternatives are evaluated in the proposed plan:

- **No action;**
- **Groundwater pump and treat.**

Preferred Alternative

The preferred alternative is groundwater pump and treat. The pilot scale treatability test was successful in treating the groundwater contami-

nants. The full scale system is expected to pump and treat approximately 50 gallons of water per minute and could be upgraded to 120 gallons per minute if determined necessary. Treated water will be returned to the aquifer under the 200 Area. The duration of the project is estimated at five years and its total cost at between \$5 and \$10 million dollars.

How You Can Get Involved

The Department of Ecology and the Environmental Protection Agency have regulatory oversight for this project, with Ecology serving as the lead agency. All comments will be considered by the regulatory agencies before making a final de-

cision on the cleanup option for this unit. A responsiveness summary will be issued with the final record of decision.

A public meeting during the public comment period may be requested. To provide adequate notice for all Hanford stakeholders, public meeting requests should be submitted by August 22, 1995, to Dib Goswami of Ecology's Nuclear Waste Program at the address or phone number listed on the front page.

Copies of the 200-UP-1 OU Proposed Plan and other supporting documents also are available for review and copying at the Hanford Tri-Party Public Information Repositories. For more information, call Hanford Cleanup toll-free, 1-800-321-2008.

Hanford Public Information Repositories

Seattle

University of Washington
Suzzallo Library
Government Publications Room
(206) 543-4664
Attn. Eleanor Chase

Spokane

Gonzaga University
Foley Center
E. 502 Boone
(509) 328-4220 Ext. 3844
Attn. Tim Fuhrman

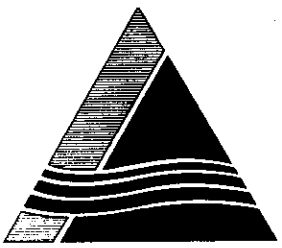
Portland

Portland State University
Branford Price Millar Library
Science and Engineering Floor
934 S.W. Harrison
(503) 725-3690
Attn. Michael Bowman or Susan Thomas

Richland

USDOE Public Reading Room
Washington State University, Tri-Cities
100 Sprout Road, Room 130 West
(509) 376-8583
Attn. Terri Traub

If you have special accommodation needs or would like this material in an alternative format (large type, Braille, cassette tape, or on computer) please contact: Michelle Davis at (360) 407-7126 (Voice) or (360) 407-6206 (TDD).



Hanford Happenings

July 12, 1995

Tri-Party Agreement

Cleanup is underway at Hanford and the number of actions requiring public participation continues to grow. The three parties, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington State Department of Ecology and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, offer this monthly flier to help you keep track of scheduled meetings, comment periods and events, and the inevitable changes in schedules. For the latest information, call the Hanford Cleanup toll-free hotline at 1-800-321-2008.

July	Program	Contact
July 21 Tentative	Ecology/Hanford Public Interest Group Bi-monthly meeting. Ecology's Lacey Offices. Agenda and meeting room location to be determined. 1:30-5 p.m. Chair: Tom Carpenter	Michelle Davis (360) 407-7126
July 25	100 Area Environmental Cleanup along the Columbia River. Public meeting to discuss cleanup proposals for 100-BC-1, DR-1 and HR-1. Richland, Richland Library, 6 - 8:30 pm.	Nancy Werdel (509) 376-5500
July 26-28	Hanford Health Effects Subcommittee meeting. Department of Health, ATSDR, public meeting. The agenda includes an afternoon session on the 26th with the Inter-Tribal Council on Hanford Health Projects of the Dose Reconstruction Project. Pasco, Red Lion Inn.	Jim Carpenter (404) 639-0730

August-September

August 3-4	Hanford Advisory Board meeting. Spokane; Cavanaugh's River Inn (1401 N. Hayden Island Dr.). Agenda to be determined. 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Members of the public are encouraged to attend Hanford Advisory Board meetings. All meetings are open to the public and time is available to give public comment.	Elaine Hallmark (503) 243-2663
August 11	Hanford Advisory Board Health, Safety, and Waste Management Committee meeting. Agenda to be determined. Chair: Dick Belsey.	Paul Wilson (503) 245-1481
August/ September Tentative	1996 Workforce Restructuring Plan. USDOE public meeting. Richland. Date, time, location, and agenda to be determined.	Barb Hoffer (509) 376-7221
August/ September Tentative	Columbia River Comprehensive Impact Assessment. Public workshop. Richland. Date, time, location, and agenda to be determined.	Amoret Bunn (509) 943-3695
September 6	Inter-Tribal Council on Hanford Health Projects of the Hanford Environmental Dose Reconstruction Project meeting. Pasco; Red Lion Inn. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Greg Combs (360) 407-7116
September 7-8	Technical Steering Panel of the Hanford Environmental Dose Reconstruction Project meeting. Pasco, Red Lion Inn. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Greg Combs (360) 407-7116
September 7	Hanford Advisory Board meeting. Richland; Best Western-Tower Inn. Agenda to be determined. 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Members of the public are encouraged to attend Hanford Advisory Board meetings. All meetings are open to the public and time is available to give public comment.	Elaine Hallmark (503) 243-2663
September 26-28	Northwest Interstate Compact Low Level Waste Forum. Salt Lake City, Utah. Agenda includes a site visit to EnviroCare.	Joe Stohr (360) 407-7107
September 28-29	Hanford Health Effects Subcommittee meeting. Department of Health, ATSDR, public meeting. Yakima. Time, location, and agenda to be determined.	Jim Carpenter (404) 639-0730

October-December

October 5-6	Hanford Advisory Board meeting. Spokane.; Cavanaugh's. (1101 N. Columbia Ctr. Blvd.) Agenda to be determined. 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Members of the public are encouraged to attend Hanford Advisory Board meetings. All meetings are open to the public and time is available to give public comment.	Elaine Hallmark (503) 243-2663
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November 2	Hanford Advisory Board meeting. Richland; O'Callahan's (Shilo). Agenda to be determined. 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Members of the public are encouraged to attend Hanford Advisory Board meetings. All meetings are open to the public and time is available to give public comment.	Elaine Hallmark (503) 243-2663
November 29- December 1	Hanford Health Effects Subcommittee meeting. Department of Health, ATSDR, public meeting. The agenda includes an afternoon session on the 29th with the Inter-Tribal Council on Hanford Health Projects of the Dose Reconstruction Project. Time, location, and agenda to be determined.	Jim Carpenter (404) 639-0730
December 5	Inter-Tribal Council on Hanford Health Projects of the Hanford Environmental Dose Reconstruction Project meeting. Richland; Tower Inn. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Greg Combs (360) 407-7116
December 6-7	Technical Steering Panel of the Hanford Environmental Dose Reconstruction Project Final meeting. Richland; Tower Inn. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Greg Combs (360) 407-7116
December 7-8	Hanford Advisory Board meeting. Portland, OR; Red Lion-Columbia River. Agenda to be determined. 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Members of the public are encouraged to attend Hanford Advisory Board meetings. All meetings are open to the public and time is available to give public comment.	Elaine Hallmark (503) 243-2663

COMMENT PERIODS

June 25-July 31	Pantex Sitewide Environmental Impact Statement. Scoping period continued. Hanford is included as an alternative for interim storage of plutonium pits removed from the nation's nuclear weapons stockpile.	Nanette Founds (505) 845-4212
June 26-August 9	100 Area Environmental Cleanup along the Columbia River. The TPA agencies are seeking comments on the cleanup proposals for 100-BC-1, DR-1 and HR-1.	Nancy Werdel (509) 376-5500
June 26-August 9	Proposed Plan for Completed Expedited Response Actions. Plan describes what actions have been taken on four operable units thru expedited response actions and proposes no further action. The units include North Slope Riverland Pickling Acid and Sodium Dichromate.	Gary Freedman (509) 736-3026
August 8-September 6	Interim Remedial Measures Proposed Plan for the 200-UP-1 Operable Unit. Ecology seeks public comment on the interim remedial measures to reduce the risks from contaminated groundwater in one of two units in the 200 West Area on the Hanford Site. The proposed plan chooses a preferred alternative of groundwater pump and treat.	Dib Goswami (509) 736-3015
Summer/Fall 1995 Tentative	Preliminary Notice of Waste Discharge Permit Application. Ecology seeks public comment on issues to be considered in development of draft permits for W-252 Streams, 200 East Area Chemical Drain Field, 400 Area Septic System, and 183-N Backwash Discharge Pond, 100-N Sewage Lagoon. Comments will be used to prepare draft permits for public review in the fall of 1995.	Greta Davis (509) 736-3025
October/November Tentative	400 Area. Ecology will seek public comment and conduct a public hearing on the draft waste discharge permit for the 400 Area.	Greta Davis (509) 736-3025

Every effort has been made to list correct information, but dates, times, and locations for particular meetings may change. For more information, please call 1-800-321-2008 or any of the following Tri-Party Agreement agency public involvement contacts:

U.S. Department of Energy
Jon Yerxa at (509) 376-9628

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Dennis Faulk at (509) 376-8631

WA State Department of Ecology
Laurie Davies at (360) 407-7113

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Permit approved for 200 Area treatment facility

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) issued a state waste discharge permit on June 26 for the U.S. Department of Energy's (USDOE) 200 Area Effluent Treatment Facility (Project C-018H). The facility, which is expected to begin operation late this year, will purify the 242-A Evaporator process condensate. The treatment facility will discharge treated wastewater into a subsurface drain field just north of the 200 West Area. A Tri-Party Agreement milestone, approved in 1989, required the permit to be issued by June 30.

For more information contact Melodie Selby, Ecology, (509) 735-3021.

Agencies agree to store evaporator water in LERF

The three Hanford cleanup agencies in late June approved a change to the Tri-Party Agreement to allow continued storage of dilute wastewater from the 242-A Evaporator in the Liquid Effluent Retention Facility (LERF).

The evaporator reduces the volume of contaminated liquids in Hanford's underground double-shell storage tanks, creating more room for additional waste from single shell tanks. Previous agreement language had called for stopping discharge of untreated wastewater to the LERF by June.

For more information contact Melodie Selby, Ecology, (509) 736-3021.

Pipeline links seven waste water streams to TEDF

In late May, seven facilities were tied by pipeline to the new 200 Area Treated Effluent Disposal Facility (TEDF). The pipeline will carry treated waste water to the TEDF where the liquid will be discharged to the soil under terms of a recently-issued Washington State Waste Discharge Permit.

The TEDF, which is about 1.5 miles east of the 200 East Area, receives treated waste water from the B Plant, 222-S Laboratory, PUREX, 242-A Water Services Building, T Plant, PFP, and the 283 West Water Treatment Facility.

For more information contact Melodie Selby, Ecology, (509) 736-3021.

Comment closed on RCRA permit modifications

Ecology will issue a response to comment document on proposals to add three unit closure plans to the Hanford Hazardous Waste Permit about August 15. The units are the Hanford Patrol Academy Demolition Sites, 105 DR Large Sodium Fire Facility, and the 304 Concretion Facility. If no major changes are required, the new modified permit will be issued at the same time. A public hearing was June 21 in Ecology's Kennewick office.

For more information contact Moses Jaraysi, Ecology, (509) 736-3016.

Hanford reactor defueled ahead of schedule

Defueling of the Fast Flux Test Facility (FFTF) was safely completed on April 19, four and a half months ahead of schedule and \$475,000 under budget. This completes the first major phase of the plant's deactivation.

The next phases of deactivation, expected to take five to six years, include washing irradiated fuel assemblies and placing them in interim dry storage, constructing a sodium storage facility, removing sodium coolant from plant systems and shutting down plant systems and utilities.

Once deactivated the plant can be safely left unoccupied until final disposition. This greatly reduces the annual cost of surveillance and maintenance.

For more information contact Jim Mecca, USDOE, (509) 376-7471.

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